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Collection of consultation fees by doctors working in the King George's Hospital, Vizagapatam.

* 508 *Q.*—Rao Sahib B. VENKATARAMAYYA: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the X-ray specialist attached to the King George's Hospital, Vizagapatam, is collecting higher fees from patients attending the hospital and crediting a lower sum to the Government account;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that complaints were made against him, and if so, what action was taken by the Government on the complaints;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the doctors working in the said hospital have consulting rooms at home and whether patients seeking admission into the hospital are invariably subjected to payment of consultation fees to the various doctors; and

(*d*) whether it is a fact that patients admitted into the hospital are made to pay the cost of medicines and also for the diets supplied to them?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) Certain allegations have been made against the Radiologist in the matter and an enquiry has been ordered into them.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) According to the rules relating to the levy of fees for medical treatment in Government Medical institutions patients whose income is Rs. 50 a month or more are charged for accommodation, medical advice, nursing and diet. Patients entitled to free medical attendance are charged for accommodation and diet only.

Rao Sahib B. VENKATARAMAYYA:—"May I know the nature of the allegations and the result of the enquiry?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"I am afraid I cannot at present disclose the nature of the allegations which are under enquiry."

Public Health

Free distribution of quinine in South Kanara district.

* 509 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether free distribution of quinine has given satisfactory results in controlling malaria in Puttur and Karkal taluks in South Kanara;

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(*b*) whether representations have been made to him during his visit to the district to extend the benefit of this system to the rest of the taluks also; and

(*c*) what action Government have taken in this matter?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The question of extending the experimental scheme of free distribution of quinine to the other taluks in the district is under consideration.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—" May I know if Government have got a sufficient supply of quinine and whether there is any other difficulty in extending the free supply of quinine to the rest of the taluks also? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—" It is not a question of Government not having a sufficient supply of quinine. The question is the cost of free distribution of the substance."

Water-supply scheme of the Tuticorin Municipality.

* 510 *Q.*—Mr. M. D. T. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Tuticorin Municipality has been collecting a heavy tax from the year 1915 for a protected scheme of water-supply to the town;

(*b*) whether the works pertaining to the scheme finally sanctioned by the Government in 1926 are still pending completion;

(*c*) whether the Government have investigated into the delay in the execution of the works and what steps have been or are proposed to be taken to complete the works without further delay; and

(*d*) when the Government expect the works to be completed and handed over to the municipality?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 529.

Agriculture

Correspondence with the Secretary of State for sanction to appoint an I.C.S. officer as Director of Agriculture.

* 511 *Q.*—Mr. V. T. ARASU: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government have addressed the Central Government and the Secretary of State for India for permission to appoint a civilian as permanent Director of Agriculture; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons that impelled the Government to overlook the claims of the men in the Agricultural department ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The question of a permanent successor to Mr. Hilson is still under the consideration of Government.